

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A blind trimming apparatus comprising:
a frame defining a cutting recess;
5 a cutting tool supported by the frame and extending into the cutting recess;
and
a cutting blade supported by the frame and moveable across the cutting tool
during trimming, one of the cutting blade and the cutting tool having a locating protrusion
and an other of the cutting blade and the cutting tool defining a locating recess, the
10 locating protrusion being engageable in the locating recess to index one of the cutting
blade and the cutting tool with respect to the other of the cutting blade and the cutting tool.
2. The blind trimming apparatus of claim 1, wherein the cutting tool includes
the locating protrusion, and wherein the cutting blade defines the locating recess.
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3. The blind trimming apparatus of claim 1, wherein the cutting blade includes
the locating protrusion, and wherein the cutting tool defines the locating recess.
4. The blind trimming apparatus of claim 1, wherein the frame defines an axis,
20 and wherein the cutting blade is moveable along a cutting path during trimming, at least a
portion of the cutting path being substantially parallel to the axis.

5. The blind trimming apparatus of claim 4, wherein the frame defines a second axis, the second axis extending through the cutting recess and being substantially perpendicular to the first axis, and wherein during indexing, the cutting blade is moveable along the second axis into engagement with the cutting tool.

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6. The blind trimming apparatus of claim 5, wherein the frame defines a third axis extending through the cutting recess and being substantially perpendicular to the first axis and the second axis, and wherein during indexing, the cutting tool is moveable along the third axis.

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7. The blind trimming apparatus of claim 4, wherein the frame defines a second axis, the second axis extending through the cutting recess and being substantially perpendicular to the first axis, and wherein during indexing, the cutting tool is moveable along the second axis into engagement with the cutting blade.

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8. The blind trimming apparatus of claim 1, wherein the cutting tool is supported in the cutting recess for floating movement relative to the frame.

9. The blind trimming apparatus of claim 1, wherein the cutting blade includes a first cutting edge and the cutting tool includes a second cutting edge, and wherein during indexing the first cutting edge is spaced between about 0.000 inches and about 0.001 inches from the second cutting edge.

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10. The blind trimming apparatus of claim 1, wherein the cutting tool defines an axis, and wherein the cutting blade includes an engaging surface, the engaging surface contacting the cutting tool to limit movement of the cutting blade in a direction substantially parallel to the axis and toward the cutting tool.

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11. A blind trimming apparatus comprising:

a frame defining a cutting recess;

a cutting tool supported by the frame and extending into the cutting recess;

a cutting blade moveable across the cutting tool during trimming; and

10 an elastic member biasing one of the cutting blade and the cutting tool into shearing engagement with an other of the cutting blade and the cutting tool during trimming.

12. The blind trimming apparatus of claim 11, wherein the cutting blade
15 includes a first cutting edge and the cutting tool includes a second cutting edge, and wherein when the cutting blade is in shearing engagement with the cutting tool, the first cutting edge is spaced between about 0.000 inches and about 0.001 inches from the second cutting edge.

20 13. The blind trimming apparatus of claim 11, wherein the cutting tool defines an axis, and wherein the cutting blade includes an engaging surface, the engaging surface contacting the cutting tool to limit movement of the cutting blade in a direction substantially parallel to the axis and toward the cutting tool.

14. The blind trimming apparatus of claim 11, further comprising a blade carriage supporting the cutting blade, and wherein the spring biases the blade carriage toward the cutting tool during trimming.

5 15. The blind trimming apparatus of claim 11, wherein the frame defines an axis, and wherein the cutting blade is moveable along a cutting path during trimming, at least a portion of the cutting path being substantially parallel to the axis.

10 16. The blind trimming apparatus of claim 15, wherein the frame defines a second axis, the second axis extending through the cutting recess and being substantially perpendicular to the first axis, and wherein when the elastic member biases the one of the cutting blade and the cutting tool into shearing engagement with the other of the cutting blade and the cutting tool, the one of the cutting blade and the cutting tool is moveable along the second axis into engagement with the other of the cutting blade and the cutting
15 tool.

 17. The blind trimming apparatus of claim 16, wherein the frame defines a third axis extending through the cutting recess and being substantially perpendicular to the first axis and the second axis, and wherein when the elastic member biases the one of the
20 cutting blade and the cutting tool into shearing engagement with the other of the cutting blade and the cutting tool, the one of the cutting blade and the cutting tool is moveable along the third axis into engagement with the other of the cutting blade and the cutting tool.

18. A blind trimming apparatus comprising:
a frame defining a cutting recess and having a rail;
a carriage movable along the rail and supporting a cutting blade, the carriage being moveable along a cutting path, the cutting path being adjustable relative to
5 the frame during trimming; and
a cutting tool extending into the cutting recess and being engageable with the cutting blade as the carriage moves along the cutting path.

19. The blind trimming apparatus of claim 18, wherein one of the cutting blade
10 and the cutting tool includes a locating protrusion and an other of the cutting blade and the cutting tool defines a locating recess, the locating protrusion being engageable in the locating recess to adjust the cutting path during trimming.

20. The blind trimming apparatus of claim 18, further comprising an elastic
15 member biasing one of the cutting blade and the cutting tool into shearing engagement with an other of the cutting blade and the cutting tool during trimming.

21. The blind trimming apparatus of claim 18, wherein the cutting tool defines
an axis extending through the cutting recess and being substantially perpendicular to the
20 cutting path, and wherein one of the cutting blade and the cutting tool includes an engaging surface, the engaging surface contacting an other of the cutting blade and the cutting tool to limit movement of the one of the cutting blade and the cutting tool along the axis.

22. A blind trimming apparatus comprising:
a frame defining a cutting recess;
a cutting tool supported by the frame and extending into the cutting recess,
the first cutting tool having a first hardness; and
5 a cutting blade moveable across the cutting recess and engageable with the
cutting tool during trimming to shear blinds against the cutting tool, the cutting blade
having a second hardness, the second hardness being greater than the first hardness.
23. The blind trimming apparatus of claim 22, wherein the cutting blade
10 includes a cutting edge and the cutting tool includes an engagement surface, and wherein
during trimming, the cutting edge shears blinds against the engagement surface.
24. The blind trimming apparatus of claim 22, wherein the cutting tool includes
an engagement surface, and wherein the cutting blade is moveable along a cutting path
15 before dead ending in the engagement surface.
25. A blind trimming apparatus comprising:
a frame defining a cutting recess;
a cutting tool supported by the frame and extending into the cutting recess;
20 a cutting blade moveable along a cutting path and being engageable with
the cutting tool during trimming to shear blinds against the cutting tool; and
an insert positioned along the cutting path to support blinds during
shearing.

26. The blind trimming apparatus of claim 25, wherein the insert includes a plurality of blind slats.

27. The blind trimming apparatus of claim 25, wherein at least a portion of the insert is sheared between the cutting blade and the cutting tool during trimming.

28. The blind trimming apparatus of claim 25, further comprising an insert guide adjacent the cutting path and operable to position the insert along the cutting path.

29. A method of trimming blinds with a blind trimming apparatus, the blind trimming apparatus including a frame defining a cutting recess, a cutting tool supported by the frame and extending into the cutting recess, and a carriage supporting a cutting blade and being moveable along a cutting path, the method comprising:

moving the carriage along the cutting path in a direction generally toward the cutting tool;

adjusting the cutting path relative to the frame to index the cutting blade and the cutting tool; and

shearing at least a portion of the blinds between the cutting tool and the cutting blade.

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30. The method of claim 29, wherein one of the cutting blade and the cutting tool includes a locating projection and an other of the cutting blade and the cutting tool defines a locating recess, and wherein adjusting the cutting path relative to the frame to index the cutting blade and the cutting tool includes engaging the locating projection in the locating recess.

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31. The method of claim 29, wherein the blind trimming apparatus includes an elastic member positioned along the cutting path, and wherein adjusting the cutting path relative to the frame to index the cutting blade and the cutting tool includes biasing one of
- 5 the cutting blade and the cutting tool into engagement with an other of the cutting blade and the cutting tool with the elastic member.